

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 ACDA-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 /069 W

----- 093271

O 251835Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1389

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USCINCEUR

US MISSION NATO 550

USDOCSOUTH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SP, PO

SUBJ: PRESS SPECULATION RE USE OF ROTA FOR ANTI-PORTUGUESE ACTIVITY

1. AMCONSUL SEVILLE INFORMS US SEVILLE DAILY CORREO DE ANDULUCIA PUBLISHED STORY MARCH 25 ALLEGING "7000 TROOPS OF SOUTH AMERICAN APPEARANCE" DISEMBARKED FROM MILITARY TRANSPORT OVER PAST WEEKEND AT ROTA NAVAL BASE. SOTRY REFERRED TO "RELIABLE SOURCES" AS PROVIDING EXPLANATION IN CONTEXT OF US PREOCCUPATION WITH UNSTABLE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, NATO MEMBER WHERE IMPORTANT US BASES LOCATED. STORY GIVEN BANNER HEADLINES AND TWO COLUMN TREATMENT, OCCUPYING MOST OF FRONT PAGE, EXCEPT FOR HOLY WEEK PHOTOGRAPHS. HEADLINE STATES: "DESTINATION PORTUGAL? 7000 MEN DISEMBARKIN ROTA".

2. ONLY POSSIBLE SOURCE OF SPECULATION WE CAN IDENTIFY WAS EXCHANGE OF INWARD AND OUTWARD-BOUND MARINE BATALLION LANDING TEAMS ON MARCH 8-11. CARRIER FORRESTAL ALSO VISITED ROTA MARCH 15-17. ONLY NON COMBAT SHIP WITH NO TROOPS ABOARD PUT INTO ROTA OVER THIS

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PAST WEEKEND.

3. SPANISH NAVY SOURCES AND MFA'S DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, STATE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION INTTENDED TO STOP PUBLICATION OF CORREO STORY BUT THEN FAILED TO DO SO BECAUSE OF BUREAUCRATIC SLIP-UP. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAS SINCE ISSUED STATEMENT LABELING STORY "ABSOLUTELY FALSE".

4. COMMENT: APPARENTLY CORREO'S STORY HAS SPREAD QUICKLY. PERINAT SAID MFA HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL CALLS, AS HAD SPANISH NAVY OFFICIALS AT ROTA. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE INQUIRY FROM WIRE SERVICE. REPRESENTATIVE, WHO TOLD THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO THE REPORT.  
STABLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MILITARY BASES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ifshinsr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ifshinsr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, MILI, SP, PO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006